

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05720 121224Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 L-03 /018 W
-----121228Z 035579 /22

R 120815Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4503
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 5720

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, GE, US
SUBJECT: AMERICAN FILM WEEK

REF: BERLIN 5671, BERLIN 5672

1. DURING MEETING WITH MFA'S BETTIN ON OTNER MATTERS,
PAO ASKED FOR CURRENT STATUS EMBASSY REQUEST, REPORTED
BOTH REFTELS, PROGRAMMING US FILM WEEK LATER IN 1977.

BETTIN CAID THAT FOLLOWING PAO MEETING WITH DR. MERKEL
AND CHARGE-KORNBLUM MEETING WITH DR. GEYER, HE BETTIN
HAD BEEN ASKED CLARIFY SITUATION, PARTICULARLY FOR
GEYER.

2. BETTIN THEN REACHED BACK TO FEBRUARY 1976 WHEN, HE
SAID, FORMER PAO HAD BEEN ASKED BY MFA PREPARE LIST
APPROXIMATELY FIFTEEN AMERICAN FILMS FOR FILM WEEK,
BUT NOTHING EVER BEEN SUBMITTED. BETTIN SAID THIS
WAS CLARIFICATION GIVEN HIS MFA SUPERIORS, AND
CONSEQUENTLY CURRENT GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE SCHEDULED
AS SUBSTITUTE. PAO REPLIED THAT EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE
HAD BEEN THAT GERMAN-VERSION FILMS DIFFICULT ACQUIRE,
BUT THAT IN ANY CASE, EVEN IF MFA ASKED FOR LIST WHEN
IT SAID IT DID, FINAL MFA CONSENT NT GIVEN UNTIL
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05720 121224Z

SPETEMBER. NOTWITHSTANDING, WHAT WAS MFA'S POSITION
NOW ON 1977 FILM WEEK?

3. BETTIN SAID THAT WITH SUBSTIUION GRIFFITH
REPROSPECTIVE, MFA PREFERRED HAVE US FILM WEEK 1978
WITH GDR FILM WEEK 1979, BUT THAT IN VIEW EMBASSY
INSISTENCE ON 1977, SUBJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY

AFTER SUBMISSION GERMAN-VERSIONS AMERICAN FILMS.
PAO SAID SUCH LIST NOW IN PREPARATION AND WISHED
HAVE CONCRETE STATEMENT FRM BETTIN THAT 1977 NOT
OUT OF QUESTION. BETTIN SAID BEST STATEMENT HE COULD
MAKE WAS THAT ONCE LIST PROPOSED, HE WILLING DISCUSS
1977 FILM WEEK.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CANNOT CONCLUSIVELY DETERMINE
WHETHER MFA ABLE SCHEDULE US FILM WEEK LATER THIS YEAR,
ESPECIALLY IN VIEW UPCOMING OCTOBER REVOLUTION
ANNIVERSARY, EVEN WITH SUBMISSION LIST GERMAN-VERSIONS
AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY FILMS. FOLLOWING PRODUCTIVE
MEETING LAST WEEK WITH WOLFGANG DONNER, DIRECTOR WEST
BERLIN FILM RESTIVAL, WHO PROVIDED GOOD CAUNSEL AND
NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MAJOR GERMAN DISTRIBUTORS,
LETTERS REQUESTING SPECIFIC TITLES NOW GOING OUT.
MEANWHILE, GRIFFITH RETROSPECTIVE OPENS APRIL 12
EAST ?34)8,, WITH, ACCORDING OT BEETIN, FURTHER
SHOWINGS SCHEDULED LATER IN DRESDEN AND OTHER GDR
CITIES. ANNOUNCEMNT IN BERLIN PRESS ADDS
"INTOLERANCE" TO TIELES SUBMITTED EARLIER, WITH
COPPERATIVE CREDIT GIVEN TO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.
POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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